

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on July 3, 2003, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 13, 17, 23, 27-29, and 33-35 are amended, claims 37-39 are added; as a result, claims 1-29, and 33-39 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 13, 17-22, and 27 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimizu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,109).

Independent claims 1, 6, 7, 13, 17 and 27 are amended. Applicant believes that claims 1, 6, 7, 13, 17 and 27, as amended, include elements that are not found in Shimizu et al. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 1, 6, 7, 13, 17 and 27 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 1, 6, 7, 13, 17 and 27 and their dependent claims be allowed.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimizu et al. as applied to claims 1-4, 6, 7, 13, 17-22, and 27 above, and further in view of Yu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,889,309).

Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and incorporates elements claim 1. In view of the amendment to claim 1, claim 5 also includes elements that are not found in Shimizu et al. and Yu et al. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 5 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claim 5 be allowed.

Claims 23-26 and 28 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimizu et al. as applied to claims 1-4, 6, 7, 13, 17-22, and 27 above, and further in view of Maekawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,163,056).

Independent claims 23 and 28 are amended. Applicant believes that claims 23 and 28, as amended, include elements that are not found in Shimizu et al. and Maekawa. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 23 and 28 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 23 and 28 and dependent claims 24-26 be allowed.

Claims 29 and 33-35 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimizu et al. as applied to claims 1-4, 6, 7, 13, 17-22, and 27 above, and further in view of Lin (U.S. Patent No. 6,246,122).

Claims 29 and 33-35 are amended. Applicant believes that claims 29 and 33-35, as amended, include elements that are not found in Shimizu et al. and Lin. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 29 and 33-35 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 29 and 33-35 be allowed.

New Claims

New claims 36-39 include elements similar to the elements of claims 1-29, and 33-39. Thus, Applicant believes that claims 36-39 are also in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative at (612) 373-6969 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner of Patents, P.O.Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 5 day of January, 2004

Tina Kohut
Name


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